

CLAIMS

We claim:

5 1. A power tool comprising:

 a housing;

 a motor supported by said housing and operable to drive a tool element
relative to a first axis; and

 a handle supported by said housing for movement relative to said housing
10 about a second axis generally parallel to said first axis, said first axis and said second axis
are fixed relative to said housing, said handle being shaped to be grasped by an operator to
provide for movement of said power tool relative to a work piece.

 2. The power tool as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said handle is pivotable
15 relative to said housing about said first axis.

 3. The power tool as set forth in Claim 1 and further comprising a switch
assembly supported on said handle for movement with said handle, said switch assembly
being electrically connectable to said motor and operable to selectively connect said motor
20 to a power source.

 4. The power tool as set forth in Claim 3 and further comprising means for
connecting said switch assembly to said motor to accommodate movement of said switch
assembly with said handle and relative to said motor.
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 5. The power tool as set forth in Claim 3 and further comprising a locking
assembly operable between a locked condition, in which said handle is fixed in a position
relative to said housing, and an unlocked condition, in which said handle is movable
relative to said housing.
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6. The power tool as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said switch assembly is operable between an unoperated condition, in which said motor is not connected to the power source, and an operated condition, in which said motor is connected to the power source, and wherein said switch assembly, in the operated condition, prevents said locking assembly from being operated from the locked condition to the unlocked condition.

7. The power tool as set forth in Claim 1 wherein the power tool is a circular saw.

8. A circular saw comprising:

a motor operable to rotatably drive a saw blade about an axis;

a motor housing supporting said motor; and

a main handle supported by said housing for movement relative to said

5 housing, said main handle being graspable by an operator to provide for movement of said power tool relative to a work piece.

9. The circular saw as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said main handle is

pivotal relative to said housing.

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10. The circular saw as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said main handle is

pivotal about said axis.

11. The circular saw as set forth in Claim 9 and further comprising a locking

15 assembly for locking said main handle in a position relative to said housing.

12. A method for assembling a circular saw, said method comprising the acts of:

providing a motor operable to rotatably drive a saw blade about an axis and connectable to a power source, a motor housing, and a handle;

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supporting the motor in the housing; and

supporting the handle on the housing for movement relative to the housing.

13. The method as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said act of supporting the handle includes supporting the handle for pivoting movement relative to the housing.

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14. The method as set forth in Claim 12 and further comprising the acts of:

providing a switch assembly;

supporting the switch assembly on the handle for movement with the handle relative to the housing; and

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electrically connecting the switch assembly to the motor so that the switch assembly is operable to selectively connect the motor to the power source.

15 The method as set forth in Claim 12 and further comprising the acts of:

providing a locking assembly;

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supporting the locking assembly on at least one of the handle and the housing; and

operating the locking assembly to lock the handle in a supported position relative to the housing.

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16. The method as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said operating act includes applying a clamping force to one of the housing and the handle to lock the handle in a supported position relative to the housing.

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17. The method as set forth in Claim 16 wherein said applying act includes applying the clamping force to the housing.